

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A patient care equipment support system for use in a room having a floor and a ceiling, the patient care equipment support system comprising
a generally vertically disposed support structure extending from the floor to the ceiling of the room,
a first arm mounted to the support structure for pivotable movement in a first generally horizontal plane, the first arm carrying a first patient care ~~equipment~~ column having at least one first service outlet thereon, and
a second arm mounted to the support structure for pivotable movement in a second generally horizontal plane, the second arm carrying a second patient care ~~equipment~~ column having at least one second service outlet thereon.
2. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the first arm is ~~telescoping and comprises a first portion having a mount end, a distal end extending away from the mount end, and a second portion coupled to the distal end of the first portion and configured to telescope relative to the first portion.~~
3. (Currently amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the second portion of the first arm ~~is not pivotable relative to the first portion~~ carries the first patient care column.
4. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the first arm ~~extends~~ is positionable to extend in a first radial direction in the first plane and the second arm ~~extends~~ is positionable to extend in a second radial direction in the second plane.
5. (Currently amended) The system of claim 4, wherein the first and second arms ~~can be moved~~ are positionable such that the first arm extends in the second radial direction in the first plane and the second arm extends in the first radial direction in the second plane.
6. (Currently amended) The system of claim 5, wherein ~~one of the first and second arms can be~~ arm is telescopically ~~extended~~ extendable by a sufficient amount to permit

the first patient care column to pass around the other of the first and second arms second patient care column.

7. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second arms is constructed of tubular metal and ~~is configured to carry~~ further comprising a plurality of service conduits therein lines routed through an interior region of the tubular metal.

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the service ~~conduits~~ lines supply at least one service selected from the group comprising: medical air, oxygen, vacuum, nitrogen, nitrous oxide, electronic data connectivity, and ~~electricity~~ electrical power.

9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of the first and second columns carries~~ the at least one first service outlet comprises a gas port.

10. (Currently amended) The system of claim 9, ~~wherein the gas port comprises a nozzle extending from the column, and~~ further comprising a flow meter mounted situated inside the first patient care column and coupled to the gas port.

11. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second patient care columns extend downwardly from the distal ends, respectively, of the first and second arms.

12. (Currently amended) The system of claim 11, wherein at least one of the first and second ~~equipment patient care~~ patient care columns ~~is detachable from its respective first or second arm~~ comprises a post receiver configured to receive a post of an equipment support apparatus.

13. (Currently amended) ~~The system of claim 1, further comprising~~ A patient care equipment support system comprising

a generally vertically disposed support structure,

a first arm mounted to the support structure for pivotable movement in a first generally horizontal plane, the first arm carrying a first patient care equipment column,

a second arm mounted to the support structure for pivotable movement in a second generally horizontal plane, the second arm carrying a second patient care equipment column, and

a console having a space configured to receive the first and second arms when the first and second arms are in a storage position.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the console has a first cabinet on one side of the support structure and a second cabinet on the other side of the support structure.

15. (Original) The system of claim 14, wherein each of the first and second arms can be stored in either of the first and second cabinets.

16. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a third arm mounted on the support structure for pivotable movement in a third generally horizontal plane, the third arm carrying a third column or patient care equipment.

17. (Currently amended) ~~The system of claim 16;~~ A patient care equipment support system comprising

a generally vertically disposed support structure,

a first arm mounted to the support structure for pivotable movement in a first generally horizontal plane, the first arm carrying a first patient care equipment column, and

a second arm mounted to the support structure for pivotable movement in a second generally horizontal plane, the second arm carrying a second patient care equipment column, and

a third arm mounted on the support structure for pivotable movement in a third generally horizontal plane, the third arm carrying a third column or patient care equipment, wherein the first arm comprises a recess configured to receive a portion of the third arm when the third arm is positioned adjacent the first arm.

18. (Currently amended) ~~The system of claim 16;~~ A patient care equipment support system comprising

a generally vertically disposed support structure,

a first arm mounted to the support structure for pivotable movement in a first generally horizontal plane, the first arm carrying a first patient care equipment column, and

a second arm mounted to the support structure for pivotable movement in a second generally horizontal plane, the second arm carrying a second patient care equipment column, and

a third arm mounted on the support structure for pivotable movement in a third generally horizontal plane, the third arm carrying a third column or patient care equipment,

wherein the second arm comprises a recess configured to receive a portion of the third arm when the third arm is positioned adjacent the second arm.

19. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the third arm comprises two support members in spaced apart relation to each other.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second arms pivot about a common generally vertical axis.

21. (Currently amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the first arm pivots about a first axis and the second arm pivots about a second axis that is generally parallel to the first axis.

22. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 21, wherein the first arm is configured to extend toward a first patient support and the second arm is configured to extend toward a second patient support.

23. (Currently amended) The system of claim 21, further comprising a third pivotable arm and a fourth pivotable arm, the third arm being pivotable about an axis generally coaxially aligned with a pivot axis of the first arm and the fourth arm being ~~about~~ pivotable about an axis generally coaxially aligned with a pivot axis of the second arm.

24. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 21, wherein the first arm is configured to extend toward one side of a patient support and the second arm is configured to extend toward the other side of the patient support.

25. (Currently amended) The system of claim 24 wherein the first and second arms are ~~telescoping~~ telescopically extendable and retractable.

26. - 30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently amended) A patient care equipment support system comprising

a generally vertically disposed support structure,

a first arm mounted to pivot generally horizontally from the support structure, the first arm having a distal end,

a patient care equipment column coupled to the distal end of the first arm, and

a console configured to house at least a portion of the support structure.

32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the console comprises a cabinet for housing the column.

33. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the console comprises a contoured panel configured to receive a head end of a patient support.

34. (Original) The system of claim 33, wherein the contoured panel has a substantially concave cross-section.

35. (Original) The system of claim 33, further comprising a service port mounted on the contoured panel, the service port providing at least one service selected from the group comprising: medical air, oxygen, vacuum, nitrogen, nitrous oxide, electronic data connectivity, and electricity.

36. (Original) The system of claim 33, further comprising a light mounted on the contoured panel.

37. (Original) The system of claim 33, further comprising an air filtration system housed within the contoured panel.

38. (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein the support structure comprises at least two generally vertically extending support members having an arm mount portion disposed therebetween.

39. (Original) The system of claim 38, wherein the arm mount portion comprises an upper platform and a lower platform and the first arm is pivotably mounted therebetween.

40. (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein the first arm is telescoping telescopically extendable and retractable such that its distal end and the column ~~moves~~ is movable radially relative to the support structure.

41. (Original) The system of claim 31, further comprising a patient monitor coupled to the column.

42. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the patient monitor is configured to report a status of the patient to a caregiver.

43. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the patient monitor is configured to transmit television programming to the patient.

44. (Original) The system of claim 41, wherein the patient monitor is configured to transmit educational programming to the patient.

45. (Original) The system of claim 31, further comprising a light mounted on the column.

46. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 31, further comprising a patient transfer device to be mounted on the first arm.

47. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the column comprises an equipment support.

48. (Original) The system of claim 47, wherein the equipment support is configured to be detachable and mountable on an equipment support receiver.

49. (Original) The system of claim 48, wherein the equipment support receiver is mounted inside the console.

50. (Original) The system of claim 47, wherein the equipment support is vertically movable relative to the first arm.

51. (Currently amended) A patient care equipment support system comprising

a generally vertically disposed support structure,

a ~~telescoping~~ telescopic arm mounted to the support structure for pivotable movement in a horizontal plane, the telescopic arm having ~~a pivotable mount end and a distal end~~ a tubular first portion coupled to the support structure and a tubular second portion that is extendable and retractable relative to the tubular first portion, a part of the tubular second portion which is received in the tubular first portion being surrounded by the tubular first portion, and

a second arm pivotably attached to the ~~distal end~~ tubular second portion of the ~~telescoping telescopic~~ arm, ~~the second arm carrying a patient care equipment column and~~

a patient care column coupled to the second arm and having at least one service outlet thereon, each of the tubular first portion, the tubular second portion, and the second arm having passageways through which at least one service line is routeable for connection to the at least one service outlet.

52. (Currently amended) The support system of claim 51, wherein the second arm pivots about an axis that is generally parallel to and spaced ~~to~~ from the pivot axis of the ~~telescoping telescopic~~ arm.

53. - 59. (Canceled)

60. (Currently amended) ~~A patient care room configured to provide patient care to a plurality of patients,~~ A patient care equipment support system for use in a room having a ceiling and a floor, the patient care equipment support system comprising

a generally vertically disposed support structure extending from the floor to the ceiling of the room,

a first arm mounted to the support structure for pivotable movement about a pivot axis in a first generally horizontal plane, the first arm having a pivotable mount end and a distal end,

a second arm mounted to the support structure for pivotable movement about the pivot axis in a second generally horizontal plane, the second arm having a pivotable mount end and a distal end,

a first ~~patient care equipment column~~ service head mounted to the distal end of the first arm and having at least one first service outlet thereon, and

a second ~~patient care equipment column~~ service head mounted to the distal end of the second arm and having at least one second service outlet thereon, the first and second arms and the first and second service heads being adapted to have service lines routed therethrough, and the at least one first service outlet and the at least one second service outlet being couplable to the service lines wherein the first patient care equipment column is configured to support a first patient and the second patient care equipment column is configured to support either the first patient or a second patient, or both.

61. (Currently amended) The room of claim 60, wherein at least one of the first and second arms is telescoping telescopically extendable and retractable.

62. (Currently amended) A patient care equipment support system for use in a hospital room having a floor and a ceiling, the patient care equipment support system comprising

a support structure extending from the floor to the ceiling of the room,

a telescoping telescopic arm mounted to the support structure for pivotable movement in a horizontal plane,

a patient care ~~equipment~~ column supported by the telescopic arm,

an electrical conduit having portions disposed in the telescopic arm ~~to provide electricity to~~ and disposed in the patient care ~~equipment~~ column, and

a first flexible carrier disposed in the telescopic arm ~~to carry~~ guide movement of the portion of the electrical conduit disposed in the telescopic arm as the telescopic arm extends and retracts.

63. (Currently amended) The support system of claim 62, further comprising a gas conduit having portions disposed in the telescopic arm ~~to provide gas to~~ and disposed in the patient care ~~equipment~~ column.

64. (Currently amended) The support system of claim 63, further comprising a second flexible carrier disposed in the telescopic arm to ~~carry~~ guide movement of the portion of the gas conduit disposed in the telescopic arm as the telescopic arm extends and retracts.

65. (Currently amended) The support system of claim 64, wherein the first and second flexible carriers move in tandem when the ~~telescoping~~ telescopic arm ~~is moved either inwardly or outwardly~~ extends and retracts.

66. (Original) The support system of claim 64, wherein the second flexible carrier is radially spaced apart from the first flexible carrier.

67. (New) The support system of claim 51, wherein the telescopic arm extends generally horizontally and the second arm extends generally vertically.